

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION INFORMATION LETTER

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## CANNING TOMATO ACREAGE IN CALIFORNIA

According to the August 1 report of the Agricultural Statistician at Sacramento, a survey just completed of the contracted acreage of canning tomatoes in California indicates an acreage of 23,163. This is a decrease from the "intentions to plant" survey of about 800 acres, and may be compared with the final contracted acreage last year of 48,504 acres. Last year, in addition to the contracted acreage, there was the equivalent of 3,750 acres purchased outside of contracts, bringing California's total harvested acreage up to 52,254 acres.

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

Heavy, extensive damage to the corn crop from drought and heat up to August 1 was checked over large areas by rains on that date and later, although the crop is still deteriorating rapidly in some regions, according to a statement on August 5 by the chief of the Division of Agricultural Meteorology of the U. S. Weather Bureau. Irreparable damage to corn was done on the lighter soils and uplands of Minnesota, a rather narrow strip along the northern border of Iowa, large sections of South Dakota, northern Nebraska, much of Missouri, except on lowlands, and southern Michigan, before rains came. Corn still is deteriorating rapidly in northern Nebraska, northern Iowa, parts of South Dakota, central Kansas, the Missouri uplands, southern Michigan and locally in the Ohio Valley, but in other areas which have been dry, recent rains have been sufficient to carry the crop fairly well through the critical period of growth, which should end in about 10 days.

The Atlantic area continues in fairly favorable condition, though local sections need moisture, principally southern New Jersey, eastern Maryland and Delaware; excellent growing conditions continue in the more northeastern states. A good general rain is needed from the lower Missouri and central Mississippi Valleys eastward to the Atlantic Ocean, and also in the west central Great Plains.

## DECLINES TO REOPEN FROZEN FRUIT RATE CASE

The Interstate Commerce Commission has denied the petition of the Michigan Canners Association for reconsideration of the case involving rates on cold-pack or frozen fruits, in carloads, from points in Michigan to points in Official, Western and Southern classification territories. The original complaint sought a rating for cold-packed fruits not in excess of fifth-class. The Commission's decision in the case on February 7 found the existing ratings not unreasonable or unduly prejudicial and the case was dismissed. The petition for reconsideration was later filed.

## TRUCK CROP MARKETS

Very heavy carlot movement of peaches was the striking feature in produce markets during the week ended August 1, according to the weekly report of the U. S. Market News Service. Shipments of this fruit exceeded 8,000 cars and comprised about one-third the total output of all fruits and vegetables. Increased forwardings of grapes, pears and sweet potatoes also helped to push up the combined movement of 38 leading products to 23,800 cars, or slightly more than during late July of 1930.

## CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	July 20- Aug. 1 1931	July 19-25 1931	July 27- Aug. 2 1930	Total this sea- son thru Aug. 1	Total last sea- son thru Aug. 2	Total last season
Apples, total	680	728	593	3,555	3,908	109,718
Eastern states	379	311	200	2,025	2,354	43,173
Western states	281	400	393	1,530	1,554	66,545
Beans, snap and lima	60	70	54	8,524	8,770	9,559
Blackberries, dewberries, loganberries	15			123		
Cabbage	185	157	244	19,934	16,702	38,302
Carrots	52	30	29	8,819	9,476	12,443
Cauliflower	26	37	12	150	71	9,602
Cherries	20	35	51	1,839	2,545	2,581
Cucumbers	75	125	65	5,350	6,157	7,343
Mixed deciduous fruit	264	241	397	1,707	2,982	5,321
Mixed vegetables	348	350	491	19,933	20,839	31,180
Peaches	8,041	4,433	5,409	18,563	16,760	38,490
Pears	1,203	1,117	1,485	5,088	4,706	28,835
Pears, green	186	118	150	5,748	5,503	6,809
Peppers	17	37	29	2,538	2,119	2,786
Plums and prunes	104	211	356	3,232	4,362	8,716
Tomatoes	306	630	401	21,070	22,675	33,578

## EMPLOYMENT IN THE MEAT-PACKING INDUSTRY

The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has issued a bulletin on wages and hours of labor in the slaughtering and meat-packing industry. The pamphlet contains statistical data for the year 1929 on average hours and earnings, changes in wage rates, bonus systems, index numbers of employment and pay rolls from 1923 to 1930, scope and method, and the importance

of the industry. Copies of the bulletin, No. 535, are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 20 cents each.

### BUSINESS INDICATORS

(Weeks ended Saturday, weekly average 1923-1925=100)

	1931			1930		
	Aug. 1	July 25	July 18	Aug. 2	July 26	July 19
General business:*						
New York Times.....		74.3	a74.7	85.2	85.5	80.0
Business Week.....		75.5	a76.6	86.6	91.0	91.8
Freight car loadings.....		77.4	79.0	95.8	95.9	96.8
Wholesale prices (Fisher's):						
All commodities.....	69.3	69.5	69.8	82.9	83.3	83.4
Agricultural products.....	60.0	60.5	61.0	84.8	85.2	85.5
Non-agricultural products.....	71.8	72.0	72.5	81.9	82.1	82.1
Bank deposits outside New York City.....	77.8	87.4	96.4	100.8	110.7	122.1
Bond prices.....	106.4	106.9	106.9	107.2	106.9	106.7
Stock prices.....	129.8	134.8	134.7	206.8	207.1	207.4
Interest rates:						
Call money.....	36.4	36.4	36.4	48.5	48.5	54.5
Time money.....	34.3	34.3	34.3	80.0	80.0	79.1
Business failures.....	118.7	115.2	105.2	115.0	125.3	111.1

\*Relative to a computed normal taken as 100.

aRevised.

### CAR LOADINGS

	Total		Merchandise	
		Miscellaneous	L. C. L.	Other
Week ended July 25.....	741,752	278,796	212,153	250,803
Preceding week.....	757,555	285,941	213,294	258,320
Corresponding week, 1930.....	919,301	354,927	230,970	333,404
Corresponding week, 1929.....	1,102,553	428,777	258,039	415,737

### LATE BLIGHT OF TOMATOES

Thorough field spraying or dusting with fungicides offers the best and practically the only protection for tomato growers who suffer losses from tomato late-blight rot, according to Circular 169-C, just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, entitled "Tomato Late-Blight Rot, a Serious Transit and Market Disease."

The bulletin describes a process of disinfecting tomatoes before shipment, but points out that this is impractical for most regions because of the expense. The authors conclude that the only effective method of combating the late-blight rot is to spray the plants thoroughly in the field with 4-4-50 Bordeaux mixture or dust with some of the copper dusts.

Copies of Circular 169-C may be obtained free by writing to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

## TWO NEW LEAFLETS ISSUED

Two new leaflets, similar in form to "Canned Foods Go A-Picnicking," are being mailed this week to the Association's members. They were prepared as the result of the numerous questions that come to the Director of Home Economics for information on the buying of canned foods and the nutritive value of canned foods. If members of the National Canners Association wish additional copies they may have 100 additional copies of each pamphlet without charge. A charge of 75 cents per hundred will be made for all copies over this amount.

The response to the Picnic leaflet released in June has been gratifying. Many repeat requests have been received, including a number of bulk requests.

## RUSSIA MAY NOT SHIP PILCHARDS

According to information received in trade circles in London, and forwarded by the London office of the Department of Commerce, there will be no more Russian shipments of pilchards to the United Kingdom until the fall season. It was further reported that it is not certain that Russia will be able to ship pilchards to that country even at that time.

## YIELDS OF THE PRINCIPAL NORWEGIAN FISHERIES

The yields of the principal Norwegian fisheries from January 1 to June 27, 1931, with comparisons, are given in the tabulation below compiled from information furnished by the American Consul at Bergen.

Total Catch	Jan. 1-June 27 1931	Jan. 1-June 21 1930
Winter and Spring herring.....	327,072	476,410
Cod .....	140,714	214,488
Fat herring .....	24,003	32,010
Coast mackerel .....	7,040	6,258

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